

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 00526 252149Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-02 ISO-00 SAB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-15 IO-14 ACDA-12 OMB-01 /101 W
-----013117 252154Z /41

P R 252116Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5408
INFO PANCANAL
USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 0526

DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN

USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO

PANCANAL FOR IO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PN
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

FOLLOWING FROM USIS/PANAMA SENT ACTION USINFO WASHDC INFO
SECSTATE WASHDC P R 252115Z JAN 78 REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO:

QUOTE UNCLAS

MEDIA REACTION

E.O. 11652: N/A

1-PANAMA CITY.-GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MORNING TABLOID CRITICA
AND SEMI-INDEPENDENT LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA JANUARY 25 CARRY LEAD
EDITS ON THE CANAL TREATY DEBATE IN THE SENATE. CRITICA REPEATS
ITS DAILY ANTI-AMENDMENT LITANY, STATING THAT GENERAL TORRIJOS
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"IS RECEPTIVE TO THE INCORPORATION INTO THE TREATY OF NEUTRALITY
THE (MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING) WHICH COULD WELL BE HANDLED
IN AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES . . .," BUT BEYOND THAT, "IT IS NOT
POSSIBLE TO IMPOSE OTHER CONDITIONS ON PANAMA THAT ARE NOT
CONTAINED IN THE TREATIES."

2-LA ESTRELLA, NOT PRETENDING TO SPEAK FOR THE GOP AND TAKING A

MORE ANALYTICAL TACK, ATTEMPTS TO EXPLAIN THE ACTIVE SENATE INTEREST IN THE TREATY IN AN EDIT ENTITLED, "THE SENATE AND THE PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS." ACCORDING TO LA ESTRELLA, IT ALL GOES BACK TO DR. KISSINGER WHO CONDUCTED A PERSONAL KIND OF FOREIGN POLICY WITH LITTLE RESPECT FOR THE SENATE. "THIS ATTITUDE OF KISSINGER'S," SAYS LA ESTRELLA, "GREATLY IRRITATED SOME SENATORS WHO WERE OFFENDED BY THE DISDAIN THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHOWED FOR THE MEMBERS OF SUCH A LOFTY CHAMBER. THEY WANTED TO BE KEPT UP TO DATE ON EVERYTHING HE WAS DOING, TO THE POINT OF WANTING TO DIP THEIR SPOONS INTO THE DIPLOMATIC KETTLE EVEN AT THE RISK OF SPOILING WHAT WAS COOKING."

3-LA ESTRELLA THEORIZES FURTHER THAT NOW THAT KISSINGER IS GONE, THE SENATORS WHO HAD BEEN SHUNNED WANT TO GET BACK INTO DIPLOMACY AND HAVE SETTLED ON THE TREATIES AS AN EASY TARGET. NOT THAT THEY WANT TO VOTE AGAINST THE AGREEMENTS, BUT THEY DON'T WANT TO PASSIVELY VOTE IN FAVOR BECAUSE "A KIND OF COMPLEX, LIKE A PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTOR, COMPELS THEM TO WANT TO LEAVE THEIR OWN TRACKS ON THE TREATIES AND LATER BRAG ABOUT IT TO THEIR CONSTITUENTS, MANY WHO HAVE NEITHER THE SLIGHTEST IDEA ABOUT THE TREATIES NOR INTEREST IN KNOWING WHAT THEY'RE ALL ABOUT."

4-LA ESTRELLA CONCEDES THAT SOME SENATORS MAY HAVE OTHER REASONS, I.E. PARTY LOYALTY OR CONVICTION BUT THAT MOST ARE NOT GUIDED BY THE MOTIVES THEY STATE BUT BY "OTHER KINDS OF REASONS AND PURELY UNCLASSIFIED

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POLITICAL MOTIVATIONS WHICH SHOULD NOT EXEREISE ANY INFLUENCE IN A MATTER OF SUCH IMPORTANCE." ITEM UNQUOTE
JORDEN

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NNN

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